# First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti

## "Follow Me"

Homeless Jesus, St. Francis of Assisi, New York City, NY http://www.stfrancisnyc.org/2013/09/statue-blessing
Homeless Jesus, Christ Church, Baile Atha Cliath agus Gleann Da Loch, http://dublin.anglican.org/news/2015/02/Christ-Church-Cathedral-Chosen-for-Homeless-Jesus-Sculpture

## No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here.

## April 12, 2015 10:00 am

## Second Sunday of Easter

*An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice*

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP & LIFE TOGETHER: We invite you to participate in this community of faith. If you are a visitor for the first time, please fill out the welcome pad being passed around. We invite you to join us for Friendship Time (refreshments and conversation) at the conclusion of worship.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN so that they may come to understand the worship experience. Families are encouraged to talk about the parts of worship so children may understand and participate. During the worship service we have a time for children with the minister on the rug in the center of the worship space followed by Sunday school (September-May).

*Hymns are found in the following books:*
**NCH** *(Black, hardcover "New Century Hymnal")*
**Sing!** *(Black, softcover, "Sing! Prayer and Praise" songbook)*
**ES** *(Green, softcover "Everflowing Streams" songbook)*

## *PREPARING FOR WORSHIP*

### *Invitation*

*All people are welcome to participate in this community of faith*
*If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with the Pastor or any member of the Community.*

**Prelude** Steve McGhee

***Gathering Hymn** **"By Whatever Name We Call You"** **560 NCH** - Steve McGhee

**Welcome** Ivan Harner

*Guests, please complete a Visitor Card and place in the offering plate so we may have a record of your visit.*
*We hope you will join us for Friendship Time and refreshments after the service.*

*Thank you for worshiping with us today!*

***Please rise in body or spirit as you are able***

**Announcements** Ivan Harner

## *GATHERING TO WORSHIP*

**Ringing the Bell**

***Hymn** **"Now The Green Blade Rises"** **238 NCH**

**Focusing Prayer (Unison)** Ivan Harner

**Just and righteous God, we present ourselves before you, eager to receive your spirit and walk in your ways. Rescue us, we pray from the crushing burdens we carry – the losses, failures, brokenness, and guilt that weigh us down. As you created the heavens and gave life to the earth, come to us now with new breath for your people. Remind us of the covenant which you offered us in our baptism. Let your light shine through us to dispel the fearfulness that keeps us from discerning your truth. Amen.**

**Anthem** **"Like a River that Overflows"** FCC Choir

## *LISTENING FOR GOD*

**New Testament Reading** John 20:19-31 Ivan Harner

**Hymn** **"Jesus Loves Me"** **327 NCH**

**Children's Time** *children are invited to come forward* Carol Hall

**New Testament Reading** 1 John 1:1-2:1 Carol Hall

**Reflection** **"Head and Heart"** Carol Hall

***Hymn** **"Christ Rose Up from the Dead"** **239 NCH**

## *CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE*

**Prayers of the People** Carol Hall

*All are invited to offer a prayer, testimony, praise report or prayer request at this time. Please limit your sharing to one or two sentences and remember confidentiality issues.*

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer (Unison) -- Alternate Version** Carol Hall

*When we say the Lord's Prayer, please feel free to follow the traditional form or use language that feels comfortable to you, e.g. Mother, Creator, God, Friend, or Realm, Kindom, Wisdom.*

***Offering this prayer in unison brings us together and the words illustrate our common journey***

**Prayer of Sending Forth - "I Believe"**

**I believe in the equality of all, rich and poor.**
**I believe in liberty.**
**I believe in humanity, and that through it**
**we can create unity.**
**I believe in the love within each of us,**
**and in the home, happy and healthy.**
**I believe in the forgiveness of our sins.**
**I believe that with divine help we will have the strength**
**to establish equality in society.**
**I believe in unity,**
**the only way to achieve peace, and**
**I believe that together we can obtain justice.**
**- Prayer of an Ayacucho Youth Group, Peru from *Let Justice Roll Down***

## *RESPONDING TO OUR CALLING*

**Invitation to the Offering (Unison)** Ivan Harner

**When those who are hungry beg for food, the church is there. When shelter is needed, Christians respond. When the scriptures need interpretation, we struggle together to hear the truth, To support our ministries to one another and to the world, we make generous offerings, as God has blessed us let us bless this community. Amen.**

**Offertory** Steve McGhee

***Doxology** **"Take My Gifts"** **562 NCH**

*Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,*
*Gave me light and food and shelter, Gave me life and set me free,*
*Now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,*
*Now the bread of love is rising, Loaves of love to multiply!*

***Prayer of Dedication** ***(Unison)*** Ivan Harner

**God of amazing surprises, dwelling unrecognized in the stranger among us, open our eyes, sharpen our hearing, increase our sensitivity to the presence of Jesus Christ, lest we miss the opportunities you place before us. Keep us alive to the issues of our day so we will be ready to speak the word or take the action that will bring your will to realization. In Jesus' name we say, Amen.**

## *DEPARTING WITH PRAISE*

***Hymn of Departure** **"Peace I Leave with You, My Friends"** **249 NCH**

***Benediction** Carol Hall

**Postlude** Steve McGhee

*(Please be seated for the Postlude)*

**Passing the Peace** *Share a greeting with your neighbor as we transition to our snack.*

**First Congregational United Church of Christ**
**PO Box 980413**
**218 North Adams Street**
**Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198**
**734-482-6980**

***website:*** ***www.ypsiucc.com***

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God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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| Our Volunteers | Today: April 12th | Next Sunday: April 19th |
|---|---|---|
| **Usher** | Jamie Goldsmith | Wayne Burling |
| **Preaching** | Carol Hall | Carol Hall |
| **Worship Leader** | Ivan Harner | Kelsie Molter |
| **Worship Set-up** | Margaret Harner | Glenda Horvath |
| **Acolyte** | Hunter Turner | Lyle Molter |
| **Friendship Time** | Barb Garland | Margaret Harner |
| **Sunday School** | Patty Sherwood | Tad Wysor |

## *ANNOUNCEMENTS*

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:** Our next Council meeting will be held May 4th at 4:30 pm. All are welcome.

**CHOIR REHEARSALS:** Choir rehearsal this week will be Tuesday at 6:30 PM Come, join the fun and try it out. We have a great time. Don't need to read music or have trained voice.

**PASTORAL CARE EMERGENCIES:** If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Glenda Horvath, 734-904-0420

**CONGREGATIONAL CARE:** Kindly remember in your prayers our members and friends who are sick and/or shut-in. Send a card or note to lift their spirits and yours as well.

***Fran Pebbles'*** address: *American Homes Carpenter, 3470 Carpenter Rd., Apt 332, Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Phone: 734-975-0987*

***Sally Dusbiber's*** *address'*: *Silver Maples of Chelsea, Room 1211, 100 Silver Maples Dr., Chelsea, MI 48118. Sally's direct phone line is 734-433-2396 and the Silver Maples line is 734-475-4111, x217.*

**IMMIGRATION MINISTRY (WICIR):** For information about what's happening with Immigrant Rights and ***Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights***, or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Margaret Harner at 734-483-3464 or through their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/WICIR .

**MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION:** For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition,** or if you are interested in joining us, please contact Wayne Burling at 734-377-0696. More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/onami/

**WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION:** "First Congregational is a co-founding institution of the new local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition).** In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. The diverse faith congregations and labor and community organizations that make up WeROC are, at our core, focused on intentionally reweaving the frayed fabric of community -- at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated and on our own. We are showing by example that people from many backgrounds and perspectives can, even today, come together in powerful ways around our common values and *actually change* unjust public policies. WeROC is a part of the S.E. Michigan organization MOSES and the national Gamaliel Foundation.
See Tad Wysor (tadwysor@gmail.com, 734 883 3225) for more on how First Congregational is connecting with current WeROC issues and actions.

**OUR WEBSITE:** http://www.ypsiucc.org Let Wayne know if you have any additional items to be added. He could use lots more pictures. Also check out and like our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-Ypsilanti/115695119913 .

**KROGER FUNDRAISER: HAVE YOU *RE-REGISTERED* WITH KROGER!!** Everybody that shops at Kroger and has a shopper's card ***MUST*** register. ***Last Year's registration expired May 1st*** and you are not getting credit for you purchases until you re-register for the current year.

Go to www.kroger.com and click "**REGISTER**". Follow prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link to the **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83263**, or you can find our name in drop down list. Any questions contact Barbara Garland, bargarland@yahoo.com, 734-662-5803.